

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 OMB-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15

AID-20 EUR-25 NIC-01 DRC-01 /159 W

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R 081155Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5284

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

COMUSSAG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 3484

E. O. GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, CB

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON TEACHERS' STRIKE

REF: PHNOM PENH 3344

1. THERE ARE FURTHER INDICATIONS THAT THE STRIKING PHNOM PENH TEACHERS AND THE GKR ARE MOVING TOWARD A COMPROMISE SOLUTION OF THEIR DISPUTE. ACCORDING TO THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION, KUOCH KY LENG, THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE KHMER NATIONAL TEACHERS ASSOCIATION IN A MEETING TODAY (MARCH 8) AGREED THAT TEACHERS WOULD GO ON A FULL WORK SCHEDULE FOR A MONTH AFTER WHICH A NATIONAL TEACHERS' CONFERENCE WOULD BE ORGANIZED TO EXAMINE THE "NEW SITUATION." WE HAVE AS YET BEEN UNABLE TO CONTACT MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO CONFIRM THIS DECISION.

2. TO BE EFFECTIVE, A BACK TO WORK ORDER MUST ALSO BE APPROVED BY THE SECONDARY AND PRIMARY TEACHERS STRIKE COMMITTEES. THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE SECONDARY TEACHERS
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COMMITTEE, REAM YOSAR TELLS US THAT HE WILL SUPPORT

KEEPING THE SCHOOLS OPEN THROUGHOUT THE MONTH BUT WILL ADVOCATE THAT TEACHERS CUT THEIR WEEKLY HOURS OF WORK WITH THE GAP TO BE ASSUMED BY REFUGEE TEACHERS NOT NOW EMPLOYED. SINCE YOSAR IS WIDELY BELIEVED TO BE ITS MOST RADICAL MEMBER, THE SECONDARY TEACHERS' COMMITTEE SEEMS CLEARLY TO BE MOVING TOWARDS A COMPROMISE. WHILE THE PRIMARY TEACHERS HAVE NOT YET DROPPED THEIR INTRANSIGENT STANCE, MOST OF OUR CONTACTS THINK THEY WILL FOLLOW THE LEAD OF THE SECONDARY COMMITTEE.

3. THE FIRST CLEAR CUT TEST OF TEACHER INTENTIONS WILL OCCUR MARCH 11. IF THE TEACHERS STICK TO THEIR ORIGINAL PLAN TO WORK ONLY TEN DAYS A MONTH THEY WILL NOT COME TO WORK ON THAT DAY. ANOTHER DAY TO WATCH IS MARCH 17 WHEN WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE TEACHERS PLAN A COMMEMORATION OF LAST YEAR'S ATTACK ON STUDENTS AND TEACHERS.
ENDERS

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